

**ROBERT HOLLAND FACULTY SENATE
UNCORRECTED MINUTES OF MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 12, 2008**

The Robert Holland Faculty Senate of Mississippi State University held its regular meeting in Coskrey Auditorium of Memorial Hall at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, September 12, 2008.

Members absent and excused were Greg Bentley, Jacque Deeds, Eric Dibble, Ted Dobson, Pat Donahoe, Gary Ervin, Denny Eshee, Janet Rafferty and Becky Toghiani.

Members absent and unexcused were Stephen Foster, Terry Hanson, Tom Matney, and Vince McGrath.

The meeting was broadcast real-time over the World Wide Web. The file will be left active for a few weeks and can be reviewed by clicking on the Senate homepage at <http://www.facultysenate.msstate.edu>.

President David Nagel called the meeting to order.

President Nagel referred to the minutes of the April 11, 2008, Regular Meeting as distributed. Senator Coyne moved, Senator Bailey seconded, that the Robert Holland Faculty Senate approve the minutes of April 11, 2008, as amended. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

GUESTS

President Nagel introduced guests: Dr. Vance Watson, Interim MSU President, and Dr. Peter Rabideau, Provost.

PETER RABIDEAU, PROVOST

Provost Rabideau provided the following information:

- The new Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Graduate School is Dr. Lou D'Abramo.
- The new Administrative Intern in the Provost's Office is Linda Morse.
- Rabideau distributed a four-page handout and discussed the following:
 - Strategic Initiative of the IHL – their main focus at this time
 - To increase the number and quality of Baccalaureate Graduates
 - Prepare students (K-12, remedial education, developmental programs)
 - Recruit students
 - Retain students (retention rates)
 - Graduate more students (graduation rates)
 - Articulate students from Community and Junior Colleges
 - Halve the Achievement Rates
 - Produce more teachers

- MSU Strategic Planning
 - IHL Planning Summit (Teams met in Jackson, 2-13-08)
 - Stretch Goals (new freshmen, retention and graduation rates)
 - MSU Response
 - Recruit students to increase enrollments
 - First Year Experience (Freshman Seminars, Learning Communities). Freshman Seminars -- very successful.
 - Math Domain – very successful.
 - Course redesign – Four out of five proposals funded (Biology, Chemistry, Statistics, Engineering [Statics]) at \$50,000 each by IHL
 - IHL Steering Committee
 - Rabideau represents MSU
 - Further develop stretch goals and assessment
 - President's Committee on Planning
 - Regrouping under earlier structure
 - IHL Financial Planning
 - Reach SREB Average in Operating Support and Salaries (5 years)
 - Formula Funding [Instruction and Administration; Facilities; Capital Renewal; and Small School]. MSU is \$4.5 million underfunded by this formula and if the formula were put in place, MSU's funds would be adjusted accordingly. IHL Institutions range from \$11 million underfunded to \$5.2 million overfunded.
 - Tuition Incentive
 - New Tenure Track Faculty Positions
 - \$1.9 million salary money
 - 27 positions authorized so far (19.5 TT funded in 2007) (14 in A&S, 5 in COE, 2 in COBI, 2 in Eng, 2 in Ag, 2 in CAAD)
 - \$250,000 in Incentive Funds
 - Based on Fall 2008 enrollments
 - Formula: 40% Majors + 60% Student Credit Hours, Undergraduate and Graduate
- Senator Adebisi mentioned that we need to target getting more people into graduate school which will articulate graduating more people at that level. Rabideau agreed.
- Senator Klein asked about a couple of degree programs that are up for consideration by IHL and did Rabideau have any information on them. Rabideau responded that MSU has a degree program in Criminology which is in the Sociology Department; a degree program doctorate in Earth and Atmospheric Sciences; and a degree program in Veterinary Medicine Medical Technology. There was a discussion of these programs at the last IHL meeting and all of these programs made it over the first hurdle, but Rabideau received a telephone call yesterday stating that they would be discussed again at the next meeting. Rabideau feels confident that two programs will be granted but is hoping for all three.
- Senator Klein mentioned that one of the biggest problems for faculty lately has been space, especially classroom space. With the number of buildings being remodeled, the space issue has certainly increased. There are the projections that the University will continue to grow. Can you share some thoughts on how to deal with this problem?

Rabideau responded that the recent two years of growth in the student population during a time with multiple building remodels going on is difficult and would have been so even without the building remodel projects. Rabideau's opinion is that MSU should build a classroom building with just computer labs and classrooms. This type of building is cheaper cost wise than building a multi-purpose building and it would serve a lot of students and do a great job using technology.

VANCE WATSON, INTERIM MSU PRESIDENT

President Watson provided the following information:

- On Friday, September 16th, IHL will publish MSU's student population for Fall 2008 to be 17,824 students. This is a 4.6 % increase over last year and a 9% increase in the Freshman class. Freshman to Sophomore retention grew from 82% to 84.5%. MSU was already the highest in the state for this figure at 80% and remains so at 84.5%. ACT scores remain the same as last year – at 23.6. Graduation rates are up to 60% -- again the highest of the eight Mississippi universities. MSU is 101% occupancy in the dorms.
- There is one new dorm in the planning stages and will be between McComas and Rice. Plans are to have classrooms built into this dorm.
- Watson, as well as all other seven university presidents, spent the last two days in Jackson testifying in front of the legislature.
- IHL has decided to put the Funding Formula into play this year without new money. Student enrollment plays a big part in this model and is a three-year rolling average – at present using 2004-2006 figures.
- Watson has been MSU's Interim President for 165 days. He stated that it has been an incredible experience and thanked everyone for their support. He has worked for seven different presidents and feels that the harmony and teamwork on campus now is the best ever.
- Watson mentioned that his request to display faculty research/scholarly works in the President's Office has been a huge success and, as of today, there are over 85 books authored by MSU faculty on display. He stated that he probably gets more comments on these books than on anything else in the office. He mentioned how he appreciated the faculty's support and every day or so another one or two books will arrive for display. The MSU Libraries hosts the website, *MSU Faculty Authors*, and the site supervisor, LaDonne Delgado, visited with Dr. Watson about collaborating so that these two projects would be mutually beneficial. Should any faculty want to participate in either/both of these projects, contact Dr. Watson's office and/or Senator Delgado.
- The challenge that Watson sees pertaining to research is that both of the national presidential candidates are anti earmark people. This climate will make it very difficult to keep getting the amounts MSU has received in the past – and that is \$50 million.
- The posture in the Legislature is still good. University of Florida received a \$46 million cut and Auburn a 15% cut.
- An Enrollment Management Committee has met frequently. There were four casting models that were being used. The conservative side showed 17,425 students with the liberal side showing 17,945 students. They chose to build the budget based on 17,500 students. This has worked well.

- Demographics for 2009-2018 show Mississippi at a minus 7% in high school graduates; the state of Alabama at minus 2%; Tennessee at plus 2%; and Louisiana at minus 23%. Georgia, Florida and Texas are the growth states.
- MSU Student Affairs supported an Alumni Recruiter Program comprising 150 alumni willing to recruit possible students in their hometown area. Each recruiter was given training kits and packets of information to successfully talk to students about attending MSU.
- A marketing survey showed that one of the main reasons that students attend MSU is due to how they were treated on previous visits to campus.
- Safety is still a big issue on campus. MSU saved 24% in energy by turning off designated lighting last year, but this may have gone too far and jeopardized people's safety. There are 11,000 exterior lights on campus and all light bulbs have been changed out for energy efficient bulbs and are all working. This past Summer, Watson had a group of faculty and staff that would go out at night and look for dark spots on campus. It was determined that it cost less to just leave all the lights on all the time than to turn them on and off and worry about safety in the dark areas.
- The blue light poles are making a positive impact on campus. The *Reflector* did a nice story on them last Spring. There have been safety boxes on campus this the 1970s but they were in obscure places. To date, none of the blue light poles have been used.
- Development is another area of success for MSU. \$50 million during the past four years and most of this has gone into endowed scholarships and professorships.
- A \$2 million gift from truck manufacturer PACCAR to MSU's Bagley College of Engineering was announced at a Friday morning campus ceremony. The company, which is building a diesel engine plant in Lowndes County, is creating a new academic chair in mechanical engineering, among other endowment components. Plant manager Lex Lemmers made the presentation to Interim President Vance Watson and Bagley Dean Sarah Rajala.
- All of the coaching contracts that were renewed or initiated this year has a clause dealing with the Academic Progress Rating (APR). Watson believes that MSU is the first university in the county to have such a clause.
- Beginning in 2009, the TV contract with the SEC is a 15-year contract branded by ESPN and CBS for every football game and every basketball game in the SEC will be on television every week. A percentage of the funds received from this endeavor will go to academics and not all to athletics. Watson stated that "Athletics is the front porch of the University" There are over 350 students that represent MSU in various sports.
- Another way that Watson wants to engage the faculty is through a Faculty Mentoring Program. Melissa Mixon managed this program for the past five years. Watson wants to tweak the results of her program and make it a university-wide program and help make faculty successful. Watson also wants a similar program for new administrators.
- Senator Adebisi mentioned his disappointment that MSU does not seem to take advantage of the professional expertise available on campus via our faculty and staff as it pertains to energy usage and conservation. Watson responded that some faculty and staff have been consulted and many of the suggestions Adebisi and these other professionals have mentioned are being put into place.
- Senator Adebisi asked why the gated parking suddenly went up by \$50 or more – that there does not seem to be any justification for the increase. Watson stated that he understood and would work to increase salaries. He is working on a five-year plan to raise salaries to the SREB average.

- Senator Coyne asked if there were any new information on the upcoming convention center. Watson responded that the property has been purchased, some older buildings demolished, and the company wants to exercise the option to purchase the Cooley Building. There will be a hotel and several retail stores in addition to the convention center. Construction may start in November or December.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

President Nagel referred to the Robert Holland Faculty Senate President's Report as distributed and made the following remarks:

- The new faculty mentoring program mentioned by Watson will be brought before the Senate at next month's meeting.
- For this year only, there is a promise from the administration for assistance in paying for the criminal background checks for departments and professors with large numbers of student employees.

REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

Vice President Bailey referred to the Robert Holland Faculty Senate Vice President's Report as distributed and made the following remarks:

- Bailey distributed an additional handout denoting the Functions of the General Faculty and the Functions of the Faculty Senate as noted in the *Faculty Handbook*. These functions are to remind everyone of our duties and responsibilities as faculty and as Senators.

REPORT FROM FACULTY SENATE DESIGNATES ON UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES

University Employee Benefits Committee – Senator Lueg reminded Senators that October is Open Enrollment month and if you want to make any changes to your plans, this is the time. Senator Barbier asked about the new vision plan. Lueg responded that this is a separate item. To date, 905 MSU faculty and staff have signed up for this new plan. Senator Adebisi commented that it would be nice if there could be an e-mail reminder near October first pertaining to these deadlines and what changes can be made.

President Nagel mentioned his e-mail request for Senators to volunteer and serve on various committees. He has had some response, but there are still some positions that need to be filled. On the President's Committee on Planning, there is a need for someone from Business. Delgado will serve on this committee as the Library representative.

BUSINESS SENT TO COMMITTEES

None.

BUSINESS TO BE SENT TO COMMITTEES

Letter from Mark Goodman, re: Meridian Campus P&T Document – Senator Adebiji moved, Senator Goutee seconded, to refer this issue to Committee. The motion passed on a majority voice vote. President Nagel assigned this issue to the Faculty Affairs Committee.

Letter from Joe Sullivan, re: Honor Code – Senator Palmer moved, Senator Millea seconded, to refer this issue to Committee. The motion passed on a majority voice vote. President Nagel assigned this issue to both the Faculty Affairs Committee and the Student Affairs Committee.

Letter from Robert Zullo, re: Athletic Academic Advising – Senator Vaughn moved, Senator Palmer seconded, to refer this issue to Committee. The motion passed on a majority voice vote. President Nagel assigned this issue to the Academic Affairs Committee.

Letter from Gary Ervin, re: Aramark and Flex Dollars - Senator Lueg moved, Senator Bridges seconded, to refer this issue to Committee. The motion passed on a majority voice vote. President Nagel assigned this issue to the University Resources Committee.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President Nagel reported that the Executive Committee met several times over the Summer, discuss business, but did not vote on anything. As Faculty Senate President, Nagel signed the newest version of the MSU Promotion and Tenure document.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

No report.

ANCILLARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

No report.

CHARTER AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE

No report.

FACULTY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

No report.

STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

No report.

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES

No report.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Senator Adebisi moved, Senator Millea seconded, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote of the Senate.

Submitted for correction and approved.
LaDonne Delgado, Faculty Senate member